

Regional Landscapes of the United States and Canada

Canada's National Core

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Canada's National Core

Extends from
Quebec in the east
to Windsor in the
west.

More than 50% of
Canada's people
live here.

Includes 5 of
Canada's 10
largest cities:
Toronto (#1)
Montreal (#2)
Ottawa (#4)
Hamilton (#9)
Quebec (#10)



Plus, it includes prime agricultural land.

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National Core

- Term used in political geography to refer to
- (1) the original area from which a country subsequently grew and developed; and/or
 - (2) a region containing a country's greatest development, wealth, and densest populations; and/or
 - (3) the part of a country where people have the clearest sense of national identity.

All three apply to Canada's Core Region.

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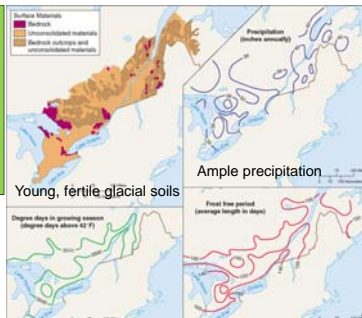
Canada's National Core

- Historically, a **contested** region with a cultural divide (English/French).
- **Distinctive** landscape and toponymy.
- A highly **productive agricultural** area.
- Contains Canada's **chief urban-industrial** area.
- The **St. Lawrence Seaway** allows ocean-going vessels access to the entire region.

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Physical Environment of the Core

Moderate climate,
long growing
season and
good soils
allowed an
agricultural base
to develop.



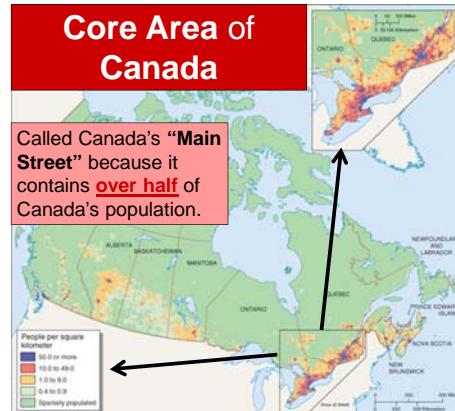
Climate moderated by Great Lakes.

Long frost-free period

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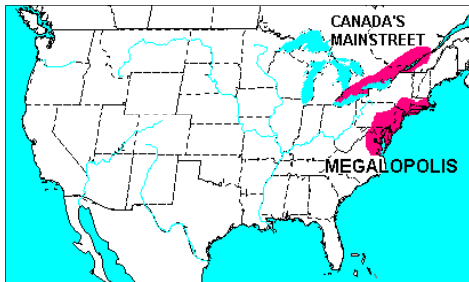
Core Area of Canada

Called Canada's "**Main Street**" because it contains **over half** of Canada's population.



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Main Street vis-à-vis Megalopolis



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Settlement in the Core

This area was settled early in the colonial period.

French came from the east.
(Cartier 1535; settlement 1608).

English came from the south.
(Late 1700s after French & Indian War and again after the American Rev.).

English encouraged settlement to counter the existing French influence. (English Protestants vs. French Catholics).



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Montreal Canadiens vs. Toronto Maple Leafs A Sports Rivalry? A Cultural Geography?



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French-speaking Canadians

French-speaking Canadians have resisted assimilation from the time of the English take-over.



French Language as a Mother Tongue

All Canadians - 23%
Quebec - 82%
New Brunswick - 33%
Ontario - 6%
Nova Scotia - 4%

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Quebec Sovereignty Movement

A political action aimed at the secession of Quebec and the creation of a **new French-speaking country**.

If successful would divide Canada into 3 pieces:

Quebec (the new nation), the Maritime provinces (which would be isolated from western Canada), and the rest of Canada.



Defeated twice.
Rural areas tended to favor secession. Urban areas (esp. Montreal) largely opposed it.

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Quebec Sovereignty Movement

• Negative impact on the economy of Quebec.

Many companies (especially foreign-owned ones) decided to relocate, because of the proposed "French language-only" laws.

• Further attempts at secession are currently unlikely due to devolution and realization of potentially negative consequences.

(*Devolution: surrender of power to local authorities by a central government.*)

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Canadian Toponymy

"Quebec" comes from an Algonquin word/term **kébec**, meaning "where the river narrows."

"Canada" comes from a Wendat (Huron-Iroquoian) word **kanata**, meaning "village."

In 1535 native people used **kanata** to direct the French explorer Jacques Cartier to a village near the site of present-day Quebec City.

Kanata became **Canada**, and got applied to the entire region, and later to the entire country.

Source: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geography-boundary/geographical-name/geoname-origine/5875>

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Quebec City



❖ The French cultural capital of Canada.

✓ An **acropolis site** that commands the place where the St. Lawrence estuary meets the much narrower river.

✓ A **chokepoint** at which water travel can be controlled.

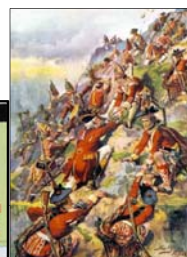
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Quebec City with La Citadelle



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Battle of Quebec French and Indian War



British troops scale the heights at Quebec, Sept. 13, 1759

See maps in historical atlas.

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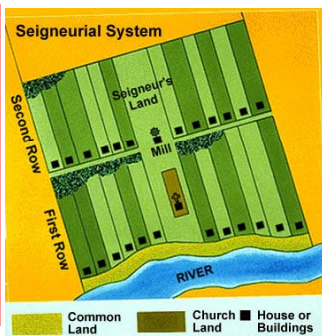
French Long-lot System

Officially known as the Seigneurial System.

System of land division involving long narrow lots used by the French during colonial times.

This system guaranteed access to property.

No property owner could be isolated or dependent on his neighbor.



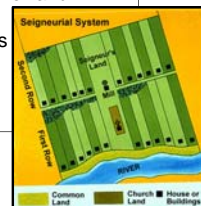
The Seigneurial System

❖ Large land grants (*seigneuries*) were awarded by the king to entrepreneurs (*seigneurs*), who sub-granted parcels (*rotoures*) to peasant colonist-farmers (*habitants*).

✓ Each *rotoure* was 150-200 yards wide and arranged **perpendicular to the St. Lawrence River** and extended about a mile inland.

✓ After river frontage was occupied, roads were extended inland to create a new rank (*rang*) of *rotoures*.

✓ This was repeated inland as needed.



Seigneurial System Ile d'Orleans, Quebec



Seigneurial System Quebec

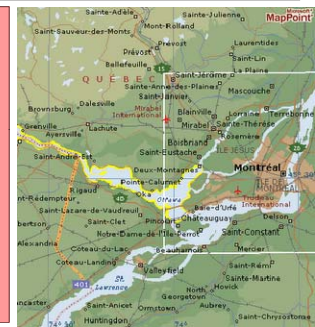


Location of Montreal on the St. Lawrence River



Site of Montreal

- Located at the **head of navigation** of the St. Lawrence River.
- Located at the **junction of a T-shaped lowland area** (where the Lake Champlain Lowland meets the St. Lawrence River Valley).
- **Land routes radiate from the site.**



Lachine Rapids on the St. Lawrence R. (between the Island of Montreal and south shore)



Rapids blocked inland movement of ships (head of navigation) until the St. Lawrence Seaway was built.

Montreal



**Canada's most important eastern port city.
The world's 2nd largest French-speaking city.**



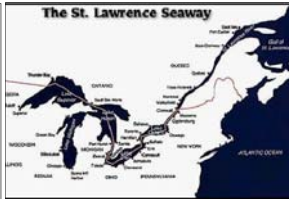
St. Lawrence Seaway

A system of locks, canals and channels that permit ocean-going ships to travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes.

The system was jointly built by the United States and Canada between 1950-56.

It is jointly administered and maintained.

An example of international cooperation between two countries along a common border.



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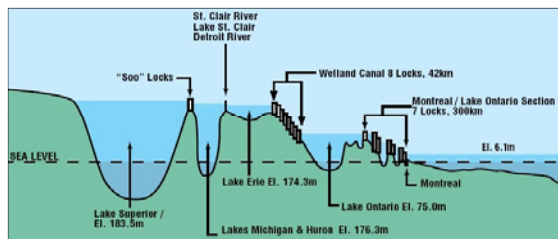
St. Lawrence Seaway

It extends from Montreal to Lake Erie (includes the Welland Canal and the channels that weave through the Thousand Islands between NYS and Ontario).

Navigational facilities allow ocean-going ships to reach the western tip of Lake Superior over 2400 mi. from the Atlantic.



Great Lakes/Seaway Profile with location of locks



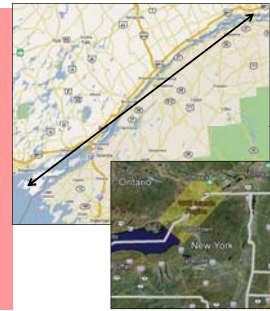
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Thousand Islands Region between Canada and the United States

Extends from Cornwall, Ont. and Massena, NY to Kingston, Ont. and Cape Vincent, NY.

Consists of over 1000 rocky outcrops that geologically link the Canadian Shield to the Adirondack Mts.

To be classified an island, there must be a tree or bush on it. Otherwise it is a shoal.



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Thousand Islands Section St Lawrence Seaway



Eisenhower Locks St. Lawrence Seaway Massena, NY



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Niagara Escarpment



The Niagara Escarpment is a **cuesta** (exposed edge of resistant rock formation). Extends from western NYS through southern Ontario and into Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois. It is responsible for many waterfalls, the most famous of which is **Niagara Falls**.

Niagara Escarpment

Bisects the Core Region, southern Ontario



Niagara Falls

(a beautiful impediment to shipping)

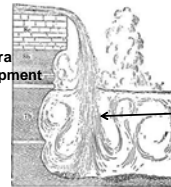


Horseshoe Falls,
Canadian side of
Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls



Niagara
Escarpment

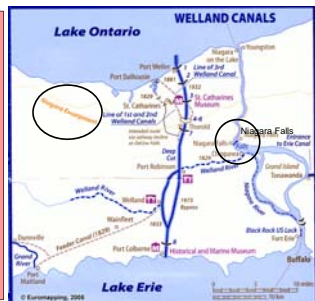


The Welland Canal

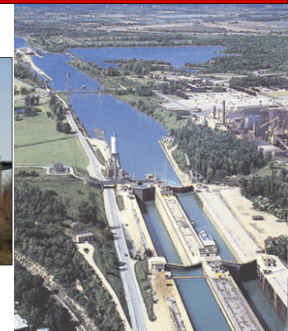
The Welland Canal was built to counter America's building of the Erie Canal.

It links Lake Ontario with Lake Erie.

Allows ships to get around Niagara Falls by raising and lowering them over the Niagara Escarpment.



Welland Canal



Canada's National Core



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Ontario Peninsula Agriculture

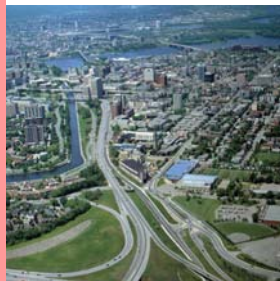


- Good soils; flat land
- Relatively mild climate
- Relatively long growing season
- Proximity to large cities and many people.
- Well-educated and fully mechanized farmers.

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Ottawa

- Canada's capital and 4th largest city
- Site selected in 1857
 - Only town of size on the border between Canada East and Canada West (now Quebec and Ontario)
 - A geographical compromise between English and French speaking areas
 - Relatively immune to possible American attack (a lesson from the War of 1812)



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National Core Interior Boundary



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Ottawa: Parliament building in winter



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Toronto: LANDSAT Image




Originally noted for its small protected harbor and portage to Georgian Bay .



Canada's largest city and 5th largest in North America. Has a better hinterland than Montreal. Has excellent links to the US Midwest region.


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Toronto

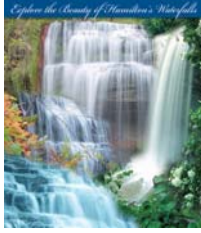


About 25% of all Canadians live in the Toronto metro area.

It is a world financial center as well as a diversified manufacturing city.




Hamilton



Located in the center of the "Golden Horseshoe" which extends from Toronto to the Niagara River.

A sandbar provides it with a natural protected harbor.

It is a center for heavy industry, producing c.60% of Canada's steel.



The Niagara Escarpment is to its south. More than 100 waterfalls have been identified within its boundaries, so Hamilton is known as the "City of Waterfalls."

Windsor

Canada's southernmost city at western end of the Core. Located on the Detroit River. Strategic site in colonial times. Now a major border crossing.

Focus of Canada's automotive, food processing and wine making industries.





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Windsor and Vicinity

Windsor, Ontario and Surrounding Areas
www.windsor-essex.info



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